



Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

October 13, 2020

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important Updates

- **New:** NCDHHS_LHD Weekly Webinar_10.13.2020 FINAL_updated.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Local Health Vaccine FAQ-Final 10.09.20 (file attached)
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place (file attached)

Vaccination Updates

LHDs should have received a memo on Friday outlining the steps to take to enroll in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program sent by Mark Benton to local health directors. These forms must be completed electronically by 5PM **Monday, October 19**. Forms cannot be accepted by other means. If you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine enrollment process, we encourage you to email COVIDhelp@dhhs.nc.gov

We have started additional data collection from hospitals as newly required by CDC on ULC storage and numbers of healthcare workers they will vaccinate onsite. We also took this opportunity to ask about other group 1a and 1b population numbers. We will begin collecting similar data from local health departments soon. Please be coordinating with your hospitals on phase 1 vaccination. As a reminder, phase 1a will include healthcare workers at highest risk of exposure and LTC facility staff. Hospital enrollment rolled out on October 13, and we will follow that with FQHCs and LTC sites. Enrollment of long-term care sites is somewhat dependent on information we are awaiting from CDC related to a partnership they have created at the federal level that they estimate will cover about 95% of LTC sites nationwide.

Please see the updated weekly Vaccine FAQs document, included as an attachment to the weekly key points email. We thank you for your partnership and leadership in the COVID-19 vaccination program planning and response

Managing COVID-19 Among Migrant Farmworkers

- [Updated Interim Guidance for Migrant Farmworkers and their Employers](#) (October 8, 2020) has been posted on NCDHHS website (updated Spanish version will be posted when finalized)
- DHHS is striving to increase testing among migrant farmworkers, especially newly arriving workers and at large migrant camps



- Farmworker Program Profiles will be provided for current 11 priority counties to assist with testing plans: Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Bladen, Harnett, Henderson, Jackson, Johnston, Lenoir, Macon, and Sampson counties
- Partnerships with testing vendors, farmworker health programs and Cooperative Extension agents are encouraged to support prevention and testing activities among this population

CHAMP Key Learning Points

To reach historically marginalized populations most effectively:

- Avoid testing sites at government entities/locations; instead, plan testing sites in the community a population lives in or, if not possible, consider community centers and faith-based locations.
- Focus testing opportunities on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays
- Most effective testing times: 4p-7p BEST followed by 11a-2p
- Engage community partners---this is critical for increasing yield at testing events
- Advertising "no cost" testing will increase the yield of uninsured, who have a higher than average chance of testing positive

Find My Testing Place

Please review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov